

# The Flow

June 2011 Newsletter  
Pete Quasius, President

## Special Events & Meetings

- **June 21: Ft. Myers Downtown Riverfront Development Meeting**  
6pm at Harborside
- **June 23: Clean Water Act Low Flows Tools Webinar** starting 1pm by River Network
- **July 6: Dan Delisi addresses Riverwatch at CRCA Board Meeting**  
6:30pm at Kountry Kitchen in Ft Myers

For more river news visit the CRCA web site at [crca.caloosahatchee.org](http://crca.caloosahatchee.org)  
Also, you can renew your membership online



*Fisheating Creek was bone dry for the CRCA picnic, but hiking was fun.*

## A New Nasty Normal



Q: What do 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009 & 2011 have in common? A: Large Caloosahatchee River Algae Blooms. In 2005, an algae bloom was seen as abnormal. This is no longer the case. While most places experience Spring flower blooms, ours is a river bloom. [\[Aerial Photos\]](#) [\[More Photos\]](#)

## Delisi to Meet With Riverwatch



The next Riverwatch meeting will be held on July 6 at 6:30 PM at Abe's Kountry Kitchen in the VIP room. Dan DeLisi, the new SFWMD Governing Board member, will be attending the meeting to answer questions from the Riverwatch. [\[Directions\]](#)

## Vue Tower Turnabout



Riverwatch lead a fight against the construction of the Vue tower near Centennial Park in 2005. The property is now up for sale and could be purchased for the park. This result demonstrates the importance of CRCA efforts. See agenda item 20. [\[City Council Agenda\]](#)

## Lake O Plummets Below 10ft



Lake O water levels have dropped below 10 feet, the lowest since 2007. Tributaries like Fisheating Creek are bone dry and sending no water to replenish the depleted lake. The rainy season may have begun on May 17 and could start a rise. Let's hope! [\[Palm Beach Post\]](#) [\[Editorial\]](#)

## Scraping the Bottom at 223 cfs



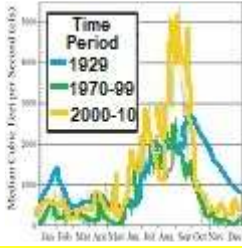
In October when Riverwatch created a scale to track Caloosahatchee dry season flows, we never anticipated it getting this bad. The 223 cfs average is a third of what is needed. Thank goodness it has finally started to rain & the river may flow soon. [\[Cartoon\]](#) [\[Graph\]](#) [\[Web data\]](#)

## Riverwatch On Facebook



Be sure to visit and "like" the CRCA Facebook Page! Announcements, news updates, photos and more are posted on the wall. This is a great way to stay up to date with the Riverwatch and the Caloosahatchee River. Share the page to friends and neighbors! [\[Facebook Page\]](#)

## Surprise! Caloosahatchee is Poor



CHNEP held a meeting on June 15 to discuss its new watershed report. The report says that the Caloosahatchee condition is poor. Water flows are unnatural and dissolved solids are high causing seagrass and mangrove loss. The river is hurting. [\[Report\]](#)

## Message From CRCA President



CRCA President Pete Quasius is trying to get a Riverwatch member appointed to the SFWMD Water Resources Advisory Commission through discussions with SFWMD Governing Board Member Dan Delisi and WRAC Chair Kevin Powers. Stay tuned. [\[Message from the President\]](#)

## Hold SFWMD Accountable



Wayne (yes, I'm retired)  
Daltry

Instead of operating as a regulatory body, SFWMD should be a regulated entity, subject to external oversight on its adherence to laws in the execution of its stormwater utility mandate. Simply stated: they must be held liable for their actions. [\[Editorial\]](#)

## EPA to DEP: Put Up or Shut Up



EPA offered to back off its proposed numeric nutrient criteria (limits)...if Florida creates a set of nutrient limits of its own that EPA can approve. Despite their best efforts, FDEP has not yet been able to ease pollution limits for its waters. [\[Inside EPA\]](#)

## Lawyer-Up, FDEP



FDEP said no to the petition for replacement of the Ceitus barrier. Lee County is moving to appeal the decision. The government must recognize that, despite their best efforts, they cannot ignore the significance of the environment. [\[Appeal Petition\]](#) [\[Blue Sheet\]](#)

## 1 Inch Prevents Green River



CRCA and SCCF state that an inch of water released from Lake O per month would prevent our yearly algae blooms. SFWMD stopped the Caloosahatchee releases in March but Southern releases continue at one inch per week from Lake O. [\[Advertisement\]](#) [\[Photo Gallery\]](#)

## Yuck! What is that Green Stuff?



Folks who live along the river are seeing an algae sludge on the riverbanks. River accumulations of nutrients paired with warm water temperatures promote growth, resulting in toxic algae blooms. The river condition is horrid; the estuary needs help. [\[Conditions\]](#) [\[Notice\]](#) [\[Caloosa Belle\]](#)

## Overlooking The Bigger Problem



Phosphorous may not be the biggest problem in our waters. Sulfates can facilitate creation of methyl-mercury, which has serious impacts on humans and the ecosystems. Sulfates are receiving increasing attention, including a Jun 21-22 SFWMD workshop. [\[TC Palm\]](#) [\[Workshop\]](#)

## Riverfront Development Meeting



The Phase 1 Riverfront Development Plan will be presented June 21st at 6PM in the Harborside Event Center. The presentation will include a storm water detention basin, public walkways surrounding the basin, open space, and a "Q&A" session. [\[Details\]](#)

## Hammond Uncertain on WRAC



SFWMD Board member Dan Delisi has appointed H.M. Ridgley of Evans Properties to the Water Resources Advisory Council (WRAC). Hopefully Bill Hammond, appointed to WRAC by Delisi's predecessor, will be reappointed by some other SFWMD Board member. [\[St Petersburg Times\]](#)

## The Enemy is Everywhere



SFWMD Board member, Dan DeLisi wrote an essay about the enemies of the environment. He describes how people often compromise their ideals to keep a job. "Green Development" is sometimes just a marketing tactic in pursuit the other green - money. [\[Shareable\]](#)

## Good Clean Fun & Learning



The May/June edition of the SFWMD newsletter "Freddy Flash" featured the efforts of Riverwatch and Port LaBelle Utility System to instruct kids on water conservation. The conservation project is funded by a SFWMD WaterSIP grant. [\[Freddy Flash Pg 9\]](#)